

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
C & C OF HONOLULU

To: **2017 JUN 27 AM 11:26** Honolulu City Council  
Committee on Budget  
The Honorable Joey Manahan, Chair

From: Wayne A. Goo  
2494 East Manoa Road  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Committee Hearing: Wednesday, June 28, 2017  
9:00 a.m.  
Council Committee Meeting Room, Honolulu Hale

**Subject: Council Bill 52 (2017) Minimum Real Property Tax**

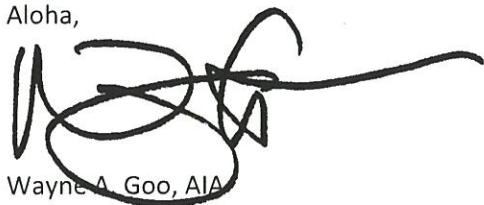
I am writing in opposition to CB52 (2017) Related to the Minimum Real Property Tax. The bill proposes to change the property tax exemption provided to historic residential properties by raising the annual minimum property tax for historic residences dedicated to preservation to \$1000 per year. The minimum property tax for all other exemption categories would remain at the current level of \$300 annually. If CB 52 is approved, only historic residential properties would be subject to the higher annual minimum tax rate; other exemptions that qualify under their programs would pay the lower rate.

Development pressure on all historic homes—from modest plantation cottages to ranch-style homes—is intense because land values are so high and the City's tax laws take full advantage of this. The City's real property tax reduction program offers owners of registered historic properties an economic incentive to preserve and protect these significant resources. The tax exemption allows owners to have some financial relief in the face of economic pressure to demolish, subdivide, redevelop or otherwise destroy historic properties. Economic incentives for historic preservation are vitally important, and the property tax exemption program helps to make preservation of our historic districts and buildings affordable when they may otherwise be at risk.

My family has lived in our historic home for 13 years and cared for it as best we could given these trying economic times. It has provided us with a family gathering place, a sense of well-being, and a vital sense of continuity and connection with our past and our community's past. Historic homes are costly to maintain and our is no exception. Stewardship of a historic home means constant maintenance and repair. It is not uncommon for the annual cost of maintenance to significantly exceed the value of the annual exemption afforded to owners of historic homes.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on behalf of the protection of historic properties and the perpetuation of our island sense of identity and place through a connection with the rich diversity of our cultural, historic, and archaeological resources.

Aloha,



Wayne A. Goo, AIA